

Thus, in addition to our Indian plants, the American caoutchouc is supposed to be produced by *Cecropia peltata*, which belongs to *Urticea* and the ule tree of Papantla, from which the caoutchouc of that country is obtained, is supposed to belong to the same orders. I must, however, observe that Baron Humboldt objects to the supposition of *Cecropia peltata* yielding the American caoutchouc, as its juice is difficult to inspissate*.

The order *Euphorbiacea* would likewise appear to supply a large quantity. Thus Dr. Lindley informs us that the true caoutchouc is furnished by *Siphonia elastica*, *Hevia quiancusis* of Aublet, a Surinam and Brazilian tree; and it is from a tree of this order that a substance resembling caoutchouc is procured in Sierra Leone.

Some *Apocqueæ* are also reported to produce good caoutchouc†; thus *Aricola elastica* produces the caoutchouc of Sumatra, and it is from this plant that caoutchouc has been produced in Penang and exported to England‡. *Willughbeia edulis* is likewise an Indian plant from which caoutchouc has been produced, but Roxburgh says it is of indifferent quality: unless I have been misled, good caoutchouc is obtained from *Nerium grandiflorum* of Roxburgh.

It is probably equally abundant in *Asclepiadea*; one plant of which order *Cynanchum albiflorum* has been stated to yield it of excellent quality in Penang. Mr. Royle seems inclined to attribute the great tenacity of the fibres of some plants of both these orders to its presence, but this supposition seems to me of very doubtful accuracy §.

OBITUARY.

The death of the Chevalier Frederic Cuvier (the news of which reached us some time ago) has awakened the deepest regret among a numerous circle of friends and savans. This excellent man was on his return to Paris, from one of those annual journeys which his office of Inspector General to the University obliged him to make, and was seized with paralysis at Strasbourg; the alleviation is contained in the reflection that he was in this city surrounded by friends and the best medical aid, but neither affection nor skill could avail, and in four days he was no more. He was born at Montbéliard, in 1773, was called to Paris by his illustrious brother, Baron George Cuvier, and became keeper of the Ménagerie at the Jardin des

* Lindley's Introduction to Natural System of Botany, p. 176.

† Lindley's Instructions, p. 300.

‡ Royle's Illustrations, p. 329, under *Euphorbiacea*, and p. 270, under *Apocquea*.

§ Royle's Illustrations, p. 274.

Plantes in 1804, a place which enabled him to make some precious observations on the œconomy and physiology of animals. These are published in the 'Annales du Muséum,' and, with other valuable works on natural history, led to his election into the Academy of Sciences, to the Inspector Generalship of the University, to the Legion of Honour, to the Royal Society of London, and lastly, to the chair of comparative physiology at the Jardin des Plantes. A remarkable coincidence exists between his death and that of his brother; like him, he was about to deliver a fresh course of lectures, was attacked by paralysis, was aware from the first moment of the result which must ensue, was anxious to secure the welfare of others, was patient under severe sufferings, and was ready to meet his God. As a scientific man his loss will be severely felt, for not only did he write the above-mentioned works, but was a contributor to several of the journals of science, and the principal labourer in the 'Histoire des Mammifères,' published in conjunction with M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire. As a father, a friend, and a brother to the bereaved widow, who is thus again visited by heavy calamity, his loss is irreparable, and as a master, the very quadrupeds of the Jardin will feel the loss of his benevolent cares. M. Cuvier has left a son, who bears his noble name with honour.—*Athenæum.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1838.

Chiswick.—Sept. 1—3. Very fine. 4. Foggy: very fine. 5. Fine: rain. 6. Heavy rain. 7. Showery. 8. Cloudy and cold. 9—12. Very fine. 13, 14. Overcast and fine. 15. Hazy: very fine. 16, 17. Foggy in the mornings: very fine. 18. Fine: overcast. 19. Rain: very fine: drizzly. 20. Cloudy. 21, 22. Foggy: very fine. 23. Slight rain: fine: rain at night. 24. Foggy: heavy rain. 25. Hazy. 26. Foggy: fine. 27. Rain. 28. Foggy: fine. 29. Foggy: rain. 30. Very fine.

On the evening of the 16th, about 8 P.M., a luminous arch was observed ascending from the west and proceeding in an easterly direction; terminating in the zenith, but with an attenuated broad train, bending towards the south.

Boston.—Sept. 1, 2. Fine. 3. Cloudy. 4, 5. Fine. 6. Rain. 7. Fine: rain A.M. 8. Cloudy. 9—12. Fine. 13—15. Cloudy. 16. Fine: lively appearance of northern lights 8 P.M. 17, 18. Cloudy. 19. Fine: rain early A.M. 20, 21. Fine. 22. Foggy. 23. Cloudy: rain at night. 24—26. Cloudy: rain P.M. 27. Rain. 28. Fine. 29, 30. Foggy.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Sept. 1. Temperate. 2. Shower A.M.: fair P.M. 3. Fair A.M.: wet P.M. 4. Showery great part of the day. 5. Wet all day. 6. Dripping day. 7—9. Fine harvest days. 10. Cloudy. 11. Cloudy: moist P.M. 12. Showery throughout. 13. Dull: moist. 14. Moist and warm. 15. Mild: warm. 16. Fine harvest day: Aurora. 17. Fine harvest day. 18. Fair till 6 P.M. rain. 19. Fair A.M.: rain. 20. Fair till 3 P.M.: rain and thunder. 21. Fair till 5 P.M.: rain. 22. Showery all day. 23. Fair all day. 24. Dripping day: cold. 25. Very moist. 26. Remarkably fine. 27. Very mild: warm P.M. 28. Fine harvest day. 29. Rather moist. 30. Fine harvest day.